

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 06718 290455Z

17

ACTION EA-09

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 6718

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, KS

SUBJECT: TRIAL OF LAWYER HAN SUNG-HON

REF: SEOUL 6546 (DTG 250922Z AUG 75)

1. AT AUGUST 28 FINAL SESSION OF LAWYER HAN'S TRIAL
PROSECUTOR DEMANDED THAT HE BE GIVEN THREE YEARS IN PRISON
AND THREE YEARS DEPRIVATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS FOR VIOLATION OF
THE ANTI-COMMUNIST LAW. PROSECUTOR ARGUED THAT HE HAD PROVEN
THAN HAN'S ESSAY "A MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE" WAS DIRECT
CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EXECUTION OF AN ESPIONAGE AGENT.
HAN HAS CONTENDED THAT HIS ESSAY WAS PHILOSOPHICAL EXPLORATION
OF ISSUE OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT AND NOT CRITICAL OF GOVERNMENT.
DEFENSE LAWYERS CONTINUED TO BOYCOTT TRIAL AFTER
WALKING OUT OF AUGUST 22 SESSION TO PROTEST JUDGE'S REFUSAL
TO GRANT DELAY TO PERMIT HAN, WHO HAS TB, TO GET MEDICAL
TREATMENT.

2. COMMENT: THREE AND THREE SENTENCE IS GERNALLY MODERATE.
IT SEEMS LIKELY THAN HAN WILL BE FOUND GUILTY AND HIS
SENTENCE WILL BE SUSPENDED WHEN THE JUDGE HANDS DOWN HIS
DECISION ON SEPTEMBER 11.
SNEIDER

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